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NEWS RELEASE

June 20, 2006

Recidivist "Prime Bank" Promoter Consents to Order

Eight investors lose \$185,167.50 with false promises of 100% profits ...

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah – The Utah Division of Securities announced today that it entered an order against Zell Lou Mills for selling two fraudulent investment schemes: in one he sold fraudulent interests in European bank loans and in the other, he sold stock, commodities, and certificates of deposit from non-existent banks. Mills is from Salt Lake County.

In the European bank scam, the Order describes how Mills raised \$150,000 from three Utah investors between 1997 and 2000. Mills told investors they would double their money within a couple of months and that the investment had no risks. The investors lost all their money. In the second scheme, Mills took \$40,142 from five investors in 2003 and 2004 for stock in a Nevada company, a 90-day certificate of deposit denominated in Euros, and commodity futures contracts. The Order states that Mills said the investments had no risk, the money would be held in escrow, and the investors could get their money returned at any time.

When soliciting these investments, Mills never disclosed to the investors his history of run-ins with the law. This history included a 1989 state-court felony conviction for issuing bad checks, a 1989 federal conviction for bank fraud, being ordered by Alaska in 1980 to cease selling securities without being licensed, filing for bankruptcy in 1985 and 1994, and the existence of \$46,641.67 in judgments outstanding against him.

The Utah Attorney General filed criminal charges against Mills in June 2004, alleging securities fraud. On December 19, 2004, Mills pleaded guilty to three counts of securities fraud and was ordered to pay \$185,167.50 in restitution to victims of these two schemes. Mills currently is in the Utah State Prison serving a sentence of up to five years.

Today's Order by the Division of Securities finds that Mills sold securities without being licensed, sold securities that were not registered, and engaged in fraud when selling those securities. Mills consented to the entry of the Order without admitting or denying the violations. Mills is ordered to cease and desist from future violations and pay a \$10,000 fine.

Investors are urged to contact the Division to make sure anyone offering investments is licensed. 801.530.6600, or toll free at 1.800.721.7233. www.securities.utah.gov.